CLAIMS:

1. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for multicast or broadcast distributing video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios; and

means for selecting a session of multicast or broadcast distribution according to the compression ratio.

2. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for multicast or broadcast distributing video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios; and

means for controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing, according to the receiver, session information to be notified.

3. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for multicast or broadcast distributing video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios; and

means for setting information including whether or not confidentiality of video encoded data is required, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution selected according to the compression ratio.

4. The video data distribution device as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios are based on the same encoding method and frame configuration.

5. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for multicast or broadcast distributing video encoded data; and

means for selecting a session of multicast or broadcast distribution according to the kind of video frame and/or video block.

6. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for multicast or broadcast distributing video encoded data having different video frame and/or video block kinds; and

means for controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information notified according to the receiver.

7. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for multicast or broadcast distributing video encoded data; and

means for setting information including whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution selected according to the kind of the video frame and/or video block.

8. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for multicast or broadcast distributing video encoded data having different information including whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality in at least one session of distribution; and

means for controlling the quality of a video received by a

receiver by changing information regarding confidentiality notified according to the receiver.

9. The video data distribution device as defined in claim 1 comprising:

means for managing information on a permitted session of distribution to a video data reception device, and notifying session information that should be notified according to the video data reception device, and video encoding information regarding the video quality to a video data reception device; and

multiple video encoded data transmission means for multicast or broadcast transmitting video encoded data having different compression ratios.

10. The video data distribution device as defined in claim 2 comprising:

means for managing information on a permitted session of distribution to a video data reception device, and notifying session information that should be notified according to the video data reception device, and video encoding information regarding the video quality to a video data reception device; and

multiple video encoded data transmission means for multicast or broadcast transmitting video encoded data having different kinds regarding intraframe encoding or interframe predictive encoding.

11. The video data distribution device as defined in claim 2 comprising:

means for managing information on a permitted session of

distribution to a video data reception device, and notifying session information that should be notified according to the video data reception device, and video encoding information regarding the video quality to the video data reception device; and

multiple video encoded data transmission means for multicast or broadcast transmitting video encoded data having different compression ratios and different kinds regarding intraframe encoding or interframe predictive encoding.

12. A video data reception device comprising:

means for receiving session information notified by a video data distribution device;

means for receiving video encoded data distributed by a video data distribution device based on said session information, and selecting video encoded data from encoded data received normally based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio; and

means for decoding video encoded data selected.

13. A video data reception device comprising:

means for receiving information regarding data confidentiality notified by a video data distribution device;

means for restoring confidential video encoded data received from a video data distribution device based on said information regarding confidentiality, and selecting video encoded data from video encoded data restored normally based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio; and

means for decoding the selected video encoded data.

14. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises means for selecting a session of distribution according to the compression ratio when it distributes video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios, and for at least one session of distribution transmission is performed by multicast or broadcast.

15. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device distributes video encoded data of the same video but having different compression ratios to said video data reception device and comprises means for controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information notified according to the receiver, and for at least one session of distribution transmission is performed by multicast or broadcast.

16. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises means for setting

information including whether or not confidentiality is required for data distributed, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution selected according to the compression ratio when video encoded data of the same video but having different compression ratios are distributed to said video data reception device, and for at least one session of distribution transmission is performed by multicast or broadcast.

17. The video data distribution system as defined in any one of claims 14 to 16 wherein said video encoded data is based on the same encoding method and the same frame configuration.

18. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises means for selecting a session of distribution according to the kind of video frame and/or video block when it distributes video encoded data to said video data reception device, and at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

19. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device distributes video encoded

data having different video frame and/or video block kinds to said video data reception device, and comprises means for controlling the reception quality of said video data reception device by changing session information notified according to the receiver, and at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

20. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises means for setting information including whether or not confidentiality is required for data distributed, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution selected according to the video frame and/or video block kind when video encoded data is distributed to said video data reception device, and

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

21. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device distributes video encoded data having different information in terms of whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method

when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality to said video data reception device in at least one session of distribution, and comprises means for controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing information regarding confidentiality notified according to said video data reception device, and at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

22. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data reception device comprises means for receiving video encoded data based on session information notified by said video data distribution device, selecting data from encoded data received normally based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and decoding it.

23. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data reception device comprises means for restoring confidential data received based on information regarding confidentiality notified by said video data distribution device, selecting data from the video encoded data restored normally based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and decoding it.

24. A control method for distributing video data from a video data

distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

distribution, by said video data distribution device, video encoded data of the same video but having different compression ratios; and

selecting a session of said distribution according to said compression ratio; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

25. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios; and

controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information notified according to the receiver; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

26. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression

ratios; and

setting information including whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution selected according to the compression ratio; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

27. The control method for distributing video data as defined in any one of claims 24 to 26 wherein said video encoded data is based on the same encoding method and frame configuration.

28. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device; video encoded date; and

selecting a session of said distribution according to the kind of video frame and/or video block; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

29. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, video encoded data having different kind of video frame and/or video block;

and

controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information notified according to the receiver; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

30. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, video encoded data; and

setting information including whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution selected according to the video frame and/or video block kind; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

31. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, video encoded data having different information in terms of whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality in

at least one session of distribution; and

controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing information regarding confidentiality notified according to the receiver; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

32. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

receiving, by said video data reception device, video encoded data based on session information notified by said video data distribution device;

selecting, by said video data reception device, video encoded data from video encoded data received normally based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio; and

decoding video encoded data selected.

33. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

restoring, by said video data reception device, received confidential data based on information regarding confidentiality notified by said video data distribution device;

selecting video encoded data from video encoded data restored normally based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio; and

decoding selected video encoded data.

34. A program having a computer constituting a video data distribution device execute the following processing steps: the steps comprising:

selecting a session of distribution according to the compression ratio when video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios are distributed, and

transmitting at least one session of distribution in multicast or broadcast.

35. A program having a computer constituting a video data distribution device execute the following processing steps: the steps comprising:

distributing video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios,

controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information notified according to the receiver, and

transmitting at least one session of distribution in multicast or broadcast.

36. A program having a computer constituting a video data distribution device execute the following processing steps: the steps comprising:

setting information including whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution selected according to the compression ratio when video encoded data of the same video, but having different

compression ratios are distributed, and

transmitting at least one session of distribution in multicast or broadcast.

37. The program as defined in any one of claims 34 to 36 wherein said video encoded data is based on the same encoding method and frame configuration.

38. A program having a computer constituting a video data distribution device execute the following processing steps: the steps comprising:

selecting a session of distribution according to the kind of video frame and/or video block when video encoded data is distributed, and

transmitting at least one session of distribution in multicast or broadcast.

39. A program having a computer constituting a video data distribution device execute the following processing steps: the steps comprising:

distributing video encoded data having different kind of video frame and/or video block,

controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information notified according to the receiver, and

transmitting at least one session of distribution in multicast or broadcast.

40. A program having a computer constituting a video data distribution device execute the following processing steps: the steps comprising:

setting information including whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution selected according to the kind of video frame and/or video block upon distributing video encoded data, and

transmitting at least one session of distribution in multicast or broadcast.

41. A program having a computer constituting a video data distribution device execute the following processing steps: the steps comprising:

distributing video encoded data having different information in terms of whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality in at least one session of distribution,

controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing information regarding confidentiality notified according to the receiver, and

transmitting at least one session of distribution in multicast or broadcast.

42. A program having a computer constituting a video data reception device execute the following processing steps: the steps comprising:

receiving video encoded data based on session information notified by a video data distribution device,

selecting data from encoded data received normally based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and

decoding it.

43. A program having a computer constituting a video data reception device execute the following processing steps: the steps comprising:

restoring confidential data received based on information regarding data confidentiality notified by a video data distribution device in a video data reception device,

selecting data from video encoded data restored normally based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and

decoding it.

44. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device, a video data reception device, and a transmission path for transmitting information from said video data distribution device to said video data reception device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises;

means for distributing multiple video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios in multiple different sessions; and

means for notifying information including information on a session permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received to said video data reception device; provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast; and

said video data reception device comprises;

means for receiving video encoded data distributed in at least one session based on session information notified by said video data distribution device;

means for selecting data from received video encoded data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of video encoded data; and

means for decoding reconstructed video encoded data.

45. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device, a video data reception device, and a transmission path for transmitting information from said video data distribution device to said video data reception device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises;

means for distributing I picture and P picture encoded data of moving picture data or I picture, P picture and B picture encoded data of moving picture data in multiple different sessions; and

means for notifying information including session information on a session permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received to said video data reception device; provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast; and

said video data reception device comprises;

means for receiving moving picture data distributed in at least one session based on information notified by said video data distribution device;

means for reconstructing received moving picture data into one piece of moving picture data based on information notified by said video data distribution device; and

means for decoding reconstructed moving picture data.

46. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device, a video data reception device, and a transmission path for transmitting information from said video data distribution device to said video data reception device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises;

means for distributing moving picture data and intra macroblock (Intra-MB) encoded data of at least a part of frames of moving picture data in different sessions; and

means for notifying information including session information on a session permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received, to said video data reception device;

provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast; and

said video data reception device comprises;

means for receiving data distributed in at least one session based on session information notified by said video data distribution device;

means for selecting data from received moving picture data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of moving picture data; and

means for decoding reconstructed moving picture data.

47. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device, a video data reception device, and a transmission path for transmitting information from said video data distribution device to said video data reception device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises;

means for distributing I picture and P picture encoded data or I picture, P picture and B picture encoded data of moving picture data and intra macroblock (Intra-MB) encoded data of at least a part of frames of moving picture in multiple different sessions; and

means for notifying information including session information permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received, to said video data reception device;

provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast; and

said video data reception device comprises;

means for receiving data distributed in at least one session based on information notified by said video data distribution device;

means for selecting data from received moving picture data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of moving picture data; and

means for decoding reconstructed moving picture data.

48. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device, a video data reception device, and a transmission path for transmitting information from said video data distribution device to said video data reception device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises;

means for distributing I picture and P picture encoded data, or I picture, P picture and B picture encoded data of multiple moving picture data of the same video, but having different compression ratios in multiple different sessions; and

means for notifying information including session information permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received, to said video data reception device;

provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast; and

said video data reception device comprises;

means for receiving data distributed in at least one session based on information notified by said video data distribution device;

means for selecting data from received moving picture data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of moving picture data; and

means for reconstructed decoding moving picture data.

49. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device, a video data reception device, and a transmission path for transmitting information from said video data distribution device to said video data reception device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises;

means for distributing encoded data of I picture and P picture or I picture, P picture and B picture of each of multiple moving picture data of the same video, but having different compression ratios, and intra macroblock (Intra-MB) encoded data of at least a part of frames of moving picture in multiple different sessions; and

means for notifying information including session information permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received to said video data reception device;

provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast; and

said video data reception device comprises;

means for receiving data distributed in at least one session based on information notified by said video data distribution device;

means for selecting data from received moving picture data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of moving picture data; and

means for decoding reconstructed moving picture data.

50. The video data distribution system as defined in any one of claims 44 to 49 wherein said video data distribution device comprises:

means for setting information including whether or not confidentiality is required for data distributed, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution; and

means for notifying setting information regarding confidentiality to said video data reception device; and

said video data reception device comprises;

means for receiving setting information regarding confidentiality notified by said video data distribution device; and

means for restoring received confidential moving picture data based on said information.

51. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device via a transmission path, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, moving picture data of the same video, but having different compression ratios in multiple different sessions;

notifying, by said video data distribution device, information including session information permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received, to said video data reception device;

receiving, by said video data reception device, video encoded data distributed in at least one session based on information notified by said video data distribution device;

selecting, by said video data reception device, data from received video data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of video data; and

decoding, by said video data reception device, reconstructed video data provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

52. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device via a transmission path, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, I picture and P picture encoded data of moving picture data or I picture, P picture and B picture encoded data of moving picture data in multiple different sessions;

notifying, by said video data distribution device, information including session information permitted to be distributed and/or a

video quality permitted to be received, to said video data reception device;

receiving, by said video data reception device, data distributed in at least one session based on information notified by said video data distribution device;

reconstructing, by said video data reception device, received moving picture data into one piece of moving picture data; and

decoding, by said video data reception device, reconstructed moving picture data;

provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

53. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device via a transmission path, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, moving picture data, and intra macroblock (Intra-MB) encoded data of at least a part of frames of moving picture data in multiple different sessions;

notifying, by said video data distribution device, information including session information permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received to said video data reception device;

receiving, by said video data reception device, data distributed in at least one session based on information notified by said video data distribution device;

selecting, by said video data reception device, data from

received moving picture data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of moving picture data; and

decoding, by said video data reception device, reconstructed moving picture data;

provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

54. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device via a transmission path, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, I picture and P picture encoded data or I picture, P picture and B picture encoded data of moving picture data, and intra macroblock (Intra-MB) encoded data of at least a part of frames of moving picture in multiple different sessions;

notifying, by said video data distribution device, information including session information permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received to said video data reception device;

receiving, by said video data reception device, data distributed in at least one session based on session information notified;

selecting, by said video data reception device, data from received moving picture data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of moving picture data; and

decoding, by said video data reception device, reconstructed moving picture data;

provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

55. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device via a transmission path, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, I picture and P picture encoded data, or I picture, P picture and B picture encoded data of multiple moving picture data of the same video, but having different compression ratios in multiple different sessions;

notifying, by said video data distribution device, information including session information permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received, to said video data reception device;

receiving, by said video data reception device, data distributed in at least one session based on information notified by said video data distribution device;

selecting, by said video data reception device, data from received moving picture data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of moving picture data; and

decoding, by said video data reception device, reconstructed moving picture data;

provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted

in multicast or broadcast

56. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device via a transmission path, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, I picture and P picture encoded data or I picture, P picture and B picture encoded data of each of multiple moving picture data of the same video, but having different compression ratios, and intra macroblock (Intra-MB) encoded data of at least a part of frames of the moving picture in multiple different sessions;

notifying, by said video data distribution device, information including session information permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received, to said video data reception device;

receiving, by said video data reception device, data distributed in at least one session based on session information notified by said video data distribution device;

selecting, by said video data reception device, data from received moving picture data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of moving picture data; and

decoding, by said video data reception device, reconstructed moving picture data;

provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

57. The control method for distributing video data as defined in any one of claims 51 to 56, comprising the steps of:

setting, by said video data distribution device, information including whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution;

notifying, by said video data distribution device, setting information regarding confidentiality to said video data reception device; and

receiving, by said video data reception device, setting information regarding confidentiality notified by said video data distribution device, and restoring confidential moving picture data received based on said information.

58. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for distributing video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios; and

means for selecting a session of distribution according to the compression ratio; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

59. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for distributing video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios; and

means for controlling the quality of a video to be received by a receiver by changing session information to be notified according to

the receiver; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

60. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for distributing video encoded data of the same video, but having different compression ratios; and

means for setting information including whether or not confidentiality of video encoded data is required, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality, for each session of distribution selected according to the compression ratio; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

61. The video data distribution device as defined in any one of claims 58 to 60 wherein said video encoded data are based on the same encoding method and frame configuration.

62. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for distributing video encoded data; and

means for selecting a session of distribution according to the kind of video frame and/or video block; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

63. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for distributing video encoded data having different kind of video frame and/or video block; and

means for controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information to be notified according to the receiver; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

64. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for distributing video encoded data; and

means for setting information including whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality, for each session of distribution selected according to the kind of video frame and/or video block; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

65. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for distributing video encoded data having different information including whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality in at least one session of disribution; and

means for controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing information regarding confidentiality to be notified according to the receiver; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

66. The video data distribution device as defined in claim 58, comprising:

means for managing information on a session permitted to be distributed to a video data reception device, and notifying session information that should be notified and/or video encoding information regarding the video quality to a video data reception device according to the video data reception device; and

multiple video encoded data transmission means for transmitting video encoded data having different compression ratios.

67. The video data distribution device as defined in claim 59, comprising:

means for managing information on a session permitted to be distributed to a video data reception device, and notifying session information that should be notified and/or video encoding information regarding the video quality to a video data reception device according to the video data reception device; and

multiple video encoded data transmission means for transmitting video encoded data having different kinds regarding intraframe encoding or interframe predictive encoding.

68. The video data distribution device as defined in claim 59, comprising:

means for managing information on a session permitted to be distributed to a video data reception device, and notifying session information that should be notified and/or video encoding information regarding the video quality to a video data reception device according

to the video data reception device; and

multiple video encoded data transmission means for transmitting moving picture encoded data having different compression ratios and different kinds regarding intraframe encoding or interframe predictive encoding.

69. A video data distribution device comprising means for distributing video encoded data in multiple sessions wherein at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

70. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for distributing video encoded data in multiple sessions; and

means for controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information to be notified according to the receiver; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

71. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for distributing video encoded data in multiple sessions; and

means for setting information including whether or not confidentiality of video encoded data is required, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution selected according to the compression ratio; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or

broadcast.

72. The video data distribution device as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, 58 to 61, or 69 to 71 wherein the transmission unit of said video encoded data is transmitted in a transmission unit of data obtained by encoding the same part of the same frame.

73. A video data distribution device comprising:

means for distributing video encoded data in multiple sessions; and

means for controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information to be notified according to the receiver.

74. The video data distribution device as defined in any one of claims 9, 11, 66, or 68 to 72 wherein said video encoded data are distributed with a time lag.

75. The video data distribution device as defined in any one of claims 1, 3 to 5, 7 to 9, 58, 69, 72, or 74, further comprising at least one means for multiplexing and transmitting at least two of said session of distributions which are distributed in at least one session.

76. The video data reception device as defined in claims 12 or 13, further comprising means for selecting whether or not at least one piece of video encoded data should be received based on at least one of the following: the error/loss rate of received data, available power, and predetermined settings.

77. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a

video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises means for distributing video encoded data in multiple sessions and at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

78. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises:

means for distributing video encoded data to said video data reception device in multiple sessions; and

means for controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information to be notified according to the receiver;

provide that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

79. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and a video data reception device receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises:

means for setting information including whether or not confidentiality is required for data distributed, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality

for each session of distribution selected according to the compression ratio when video encoded data is distributed to said video data reception device in multiple sessions;

provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

80. The video data distribution system as defined in any one of claims 14 to 17, or 77 to 79 wherein said video encoded data is transmitted in a transmission unit of data obtained by encoding the same part of the same frame.

81. The video data distribution system as defined in any one of claims 14 to 17, or 77 to 79 wherein said video encoded data are distributed with a time lag.

82. The video data distribution system as defined in any one of claims 14, 16 to 18, 20, 21, 77, or 81, further comprising at least one means for multiplexing and transmitting at least two of said session of distributions so as to be distributed in at least one session.

83. The video data distribution system as defined in claims 22 or 23, wherein said video data reception device further comprises means for selecting whether or not at least one piece of video encoded data should be received based on at least one of the following: the error/loss rate of received data, available power, and predetermined settings.

84. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, video

encoded data in multiple sessions; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

85. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, video encoded data in multiple sessions; and

controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information notified according to the receiver; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

86. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, video encoded data in multiple sessions; and

setting information including whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution selected according to the compression ratio; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

87. The control method for distributing video data as defined in any one of claims 24 to 27, or 84 to 86 wherein said video encoded data is transmitted in a transmission unit of data obtained by encoding the same part of the same frame.

88. The control method for distributing video data as defined in any one of claims 24 to 27, or 84 to 87 wherein said video encoded data are distributed with a time lag.

89. The control method for distributing video data as defined in any one of claims 24, 26 to 28, 30, 31, 84, or 88, comprising a step of multiplexing and transmitting at least two of said session of distributions so as to be distributed in at least one session.

90. The control method for distributing video data as defined in claims 32 or 33 wherein said video data reception device further comprises means for selecting whether or not at least one piece of video encoded data should be received based on at least one of the following: the error/loss rate of received data, available power, and predetermined settings.

91. A program having a computer constituting a video data distribution device execute the following processings: the processing comprising:

distributing video encoded data in multiple sessions, and

transmitting at least one session of distribution in multicast or broadcast.

92. A program having a computer constituting a video data distribution device execute the following processings; the processing

comprising:

distributing video encoded data in multiple sessions,

controlling the quality of a video received by a receiver by changing session information notified according to the receiver, and

transmitting at least one session of distribution in multicast or broadcast.

93. A program having a computer constituting a video data distribution device execute the following processings; the processings comprising the steps of:

distributing video encoded data in multiple sessions,

setting information including whether or not confidentiality is required for distributed data, confidentiality method when confidentiality is required, and/or the degree of confidentiality for each session of distribution, and

transmitting at least one session of distribution in multicast or broadcast.

94. The program as defined in any one of claims 34 to 37, or 91 to 93 wherein said video encoded data is transmitted in a transmission unit of data obtained by encoding the same part of the same frame.

95. The program as defined in any one of claims 34 to 37, or 91 to 93, wherein said processing comprises:

distributing said video encoded data with a time lag.

96. The program as defined in any one of claims 35 to 38, 40, 41, 91, or 95, wherein said processings comprise:

multiplexing and transmitting at least two of said session of

distributions, and

distributing them in at least one session.

97. The program as defined in claim 42 or 43, wherein said processings comprise:

selecting whether or not at least one piece of video encoded data should be received based on at least one of the following: the error/loss rate of received data, available power, and predetermined settings.

98. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device, a video data reception device, and a transmission path for transmitting information from said video data distribution device to said video data reception device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises;

means for distributing video encoded data in multiple different sessions; and

means for notifying information including session information permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received, to said video data reception device;

provided that at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast; and

said video data reception device comprises;

means for receiving video data distributed in at least one session based on information notified by said video data distribution device;

means for selecting data from received video encoded data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of video encoded data; and

means for decoding reconstructed video encoded data.

99. The video data distribution system as defined in any one of claims 48 to 50, or 98 wherein said video encoded data are distributed with a time lag.

100. The video data distribution system as defined in any one of claims 44 to 50, 98, or 99, further comprising at least one means for multiplexing and transmitting at least two of said session of distributions, so as to be distributed in at least one session.

101. A control method for distributing video data from a video data distribution device to a video data reception device via a transmission path, comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said video data distribution device, moving picture data in multiple different sessions;

notifying, by said video data distribution device, information including session information permitted to be distributed and/or a video quality permitted to be received to said video data reception device;

receiving, by said video data reception device, video encoded data distributed in at least one session based on information notified by said video data distribution device;

selecting, by said video data reception device, data from received video data based on the video quality and/or the compression ratio, and reconstructing it into one piece of video data; and

decoding, by said video data reception device, reconstructed video data; wherein

at least one session of distribution is transmitted in multicast or broadcast.

102. The control method for distributing video data as defined in any one of claims 51, 55 to 57, or 101 wherein said video encoded data are distributed with a time lag.

103. The control method for distributing video data as defined in any one of claims 51 to 57, 101, or 102, comprising the step of multiplexing at least two of said session of distributions, so as to be distributed in at least one session.

104. The control method for distributing video data as defined in any one of claims 51 to 57, or 101 to 103, wherein said video data reception device further comprises:

means for selecting whether or not at least one piece of video encoded data should be received based on at least one of the following: the error/loss rate of received data, available power, and predetermined settings.

105. The video data distribution system as defined in any one of claims 46, 47, or 49 wherein said video data reception device selects encoded data encoded as an intra macroblock in a prescribed method using said means for selecting and reconstructing the data.

106. The video data distribution system as defined in any one of claims 53, 54, or 56 wherein said video data reception device selects encoded data encoded as an intra macroblock in a prescribed method using said means for selecting and reconstructing the data.

107. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and multiple video data reception devices receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises;

multiple transmission means for transmitting video encoded data to a transmission path; and

means for notifying session information according to said video data reception device, to which data is distributed, to said video data reception devices via a transmission path; wherein

the qualities of video data received by one and another one of said video data reception devices are variably controlled by having said video date distributing device:

(i) distribute video encoded data of the same video to one of said video data reception devices, using at least two of said multiple transmission means, and

(ii) transmit video encoded data to another one of said video data reception devices using one of said transmission means or a number of said transmission means fewer than the number of said transmission means used to transmit video encoded data to the first one of said video data reception devices.

108. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and multiple video data reception devices receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises;

multiple transmission means for transmitting video encoded data to a transmission path; and

means for notifying session information according to said video data reception device, to which data is distributed, to said video data reception devices via a transmission path; wherein

the qualities of video data received by one and another one of said video data reception devices are variably controlled by having said video data distribution device:

(i) distribute video encoded data to one of said video data reception devices using at least one of said multiple transmission means in unicast, and

(ii) transmit video encoded data having the same video as, but different compression ratios from that of video encoded data distributed using one of said transmission means to one of said video data reception devices and at least another one of said video data reception devices using at least another one of said transmission means in multicast or broadcast.

109. A video data distribution system comprising:

a video data distribution device distributing video data, and multiple video data reception devices receiving video data distributed by said video data distribution device; wherein

said video data distribution device comprises;

multiple transmission means for transmitting video encoded data to a transmission path; and

means for notifying restoration information for restoring video

encoded data distributed confidentially to said video data reception devices via a transmission path according to said video data reception device, to which data is distributed; wherein

the qualities of video data received by one and another one of said video data reception devices are variably controlled by having said video data distribution device:

(i) distribute confidential video encoded data of the same video to one and another one of said video data reception devices using at least one of said transmission means, and notify restoration information for restoring said confidential video encoded data of the same video to said one of said video data reception devices;

(ii) on the other hand, to another one of said video data reception devices,

(a) not notify restoration information for restoring said confidential video encoded data of the same video, or

(b) notify restoration information on video encoded data of the same video having a relatively high compression ratio, or

(c) notify restoration information on a fewer number of video encoded data than multiple video encoded data of the same video distributed to said one of said video data reception devices.

110. The video data distribution system as defined in any one of claims 107 to 109 wherein said video data distribution device comprises at least one multiplex transmission means for multiplexing and transmitting outputs of multiple said transmission means into one session and said video data reception device comprises at least one

separation means for demultiplexing video encoded data from received signal multiplexed into one session.